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Outcome of the in-depth review of gaps in gender statistics

Note by Mexico and the Secretariat

Summary

This document contains the paper for the CES Bureau's in-depth review of gaps in gender statistics prepared by Mexico in 2017 and subsequently modified to reflect the comments provided by the UNECE Secretariat, by the CES Bureau during the discussions at its meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, on 10-11 October 2017, and by participants in the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in Belgrade, Serbia on 1 December 2017.

The final section of the document summarizes the discussions and presents the decisions on follow-up work taken by the CES Bureau at its meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on 14-15 February 2018.

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I. Summary of the in-depth review paper

1. In the past ten years, attention to gender statistics has been renewed. The momentum generated by the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, as well as the statistical activities and projects promoted by international organizations and United Nations regional commissions and conferences, and by individual countries, have translated into progress in the development of gender statistics at all different levels in the world.

2. Now, the goals and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development bring a new impetus for statistics and progress towards gender equality. In order to deal with inequalities and so that no one is left behind, there is an increased demand for detailed and abundant information. In addition to the requirements of goal number 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", it is necessary to mainstream gender into the other objectives and indicators.

3. There is, as a result of this new impetus, already a better institutional, methodological and data access infrastructure to facilitate progress in gender statistics. The unresolved conceptual and methodological aspects of Tier II and III indicators have been distributed among the international agencies according to their competences, so that they can be resolved more quickly, and in almost all cases these agencies have already incorporated these themes into their activities. Likewise, the role of the National Statistical Offices as coordinators of statistical work has been defined and the existence of focal points and mechanisms for dialogue with users has been identified.

4. There are particular challenges relating to the set of indicators for goal 5. In the case of time-use surveys and surveys on violence against women, even when methodological standards already exist, it is necessary to update them and establish parameters that promote standardization of statistics and indicators. The advances and interests of the countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region make it pertinent to give attention to economic statistics with a gender approach, to entrepreneurship and to decision-making in households.

5. The development of capacity-building is needed to produce and promote knowledge. Also, the use of gender statistics is an area requiring strategic attention.

6. It is stressed that UNECE has defined its Road Map for Sustainable Development Statistics, and therefore gender statistics and indicators should be harmonized with this framework.

II. In-depth review paper

A. Introduction

7. In light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, gender equality and women's empowerment are taking an increasingly important place among global policy concerns. The need to monitor the fifth SDG on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the broad and deep inclusion of gender concerns throughout the 2030 Agenda, are creating a growing demand for high-quality gender statistics.

8. Against this background, during its February 2017 meeting the CES Bureau selected gender statistics as a topic for an in-depth review. The last time that the topic was reviewed in depth was in 2007, so it was considered timely to return to the topic ten years on to assess progress, identify persistent gaps and shortcomings, and determine needs for methodological, conceptual and capacity development work.

9. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The review focuses on strategic issues and highlights concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature. The current paper provides the basis for the review by summarizing the international statistical activities in the selected area, identifying issues and problems, and making recommendations on possible follow-up actions.

10. The CES Bureau selected gender statistics for an in-depth review at its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 February 2017. Mexico, through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, volunteered to prepare the paper. The current paper provides the basis for the review by summarizing the international statistical activities in the area of gender statistics, identifying issues and problems, and making recommendations for possible follow-up actions.

11. Mexico prepared the paper for the in-depth review. As background, it used the paper "Gender statistics: progress being made by international organizations" prepared by Italy and presented at the CES Bureau meeting in Helsinki, Finland, 18–19 October 2007[1]. The UNECE Secretariat provided a supporting paper with additional commentary. A discussion took place at the meeting of the CES Bureau in October 2017, and the outcomes were presented and further discussed at the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in Belgrade, Serbia, in December 2017.

B. Scope of the statistical area covered

12. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was agreed to in September 2015 by Heads of State and high-level representatives, and sets out a set of goals for combating inequalities and leaving no one behind. This 2030 Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 associated targets and 232 unique indicators. The 14 indicators of goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" are the scope of this review.

13. Follow-up of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders. Hence, SDG indicators should be broken down, where appropriate, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographical location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

14. The 2030 Agenda is a major challenge for National Statistical Offices and for national statistical systems more broadly, not only because of the demands created by the large number of indicators, but also because the proposed indicators present challenges of varying difficulty, both in the methodological aspects and in the availability of the data to calculate them. For this reason they are grouped into three tiers, as can be seen in the annex with specific reference to the indicators of goal 5. The methodological development and/or the design of the collection instruments is assigned to "custodian agencies", international agencies with responsibility for specific indicators.

[1] Available at https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2007/mtg1/3_e.pdf

C. Overview of international statistical activities in the area

1. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

15. UNECE enjoys a reputation of a leader in the field of gender statistics in the region. As the Regional Commission representing many of the countries that are recognized globally as being the most advanced in matters of gender equality, UNECE has been able to focus on new and emerging themes in gender statistics. Working closely with donors and partner agencies, UNECE's gender statistics programme, which has been bringing together experts in the field for Work Sessions since 1985[2], has brought about significant progress in the statistical measurement of gender issues and the production and communication of gender statistics for evidence-based policymaking.

16. UNECE's role in gender statistics centres around coordination and outreach with the gender focal points in national statistical offices (NSOs), under the guidance of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics which was established by the CES Bureau in 2005[3]. Through direct and regular interaction with these focal points, such as during the Work Sessions on Gender Statistics, which take place approximately every 18 months, and in subregional workshops, UNECE is able to identify and respond to the needs and priorities of the Member States.

17. UNECE's work on gender statistics includes methodological work, capacity development, the UNECE gender statistics database[4] and the organization of Work Sessions for exchange of experience. These strands of work have led to the development of methodological and training materials, including:

(a) *Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool*[5];

(b) *Using Gender statistics: A Toolkit for Training Data Users*[6]; and

(c) *Indicators of Gender Equality*[7],

to name a few. The latter document, published in 2015, builds upon the Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators to define a regional core set of gender indicators to describe and monitor gender inequalities.

18. UNECE published the *Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work*[8] in December 2017 and currently coordinates the Task Force on Measuring Intra-household Power and Decision-making, established in 2017 with the objective of making an inventory of indicators and sources and providing recommendations to statistical offices on measuring the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making.

19. UNECE has led capacity development work in the framework of several United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects, and is currently leading the gender statistics component of the UNDA project on "Statistics and Data". The capacity

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[2] The first Joint ECE/INSTRAW Meeting on Statistics and Indicators on the Role and Situation of Women took place in Geneva on 11–14 March 1985. UNECE has organized Work Sessions from 2000 onwards, every two years until 2016 and every 1.5 years thereafter.

[3] The Steering Group is currently chaired by Serbia and includes representatives from Australia, Canada, Georgia, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, CIS-Stat, Eurostat, the European Institute for Gender Equality, OECD Development Centre and UN Women.

[4] Available at www.unece.org/data

[5] Available at https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/Developing_Gender_Statistics.pdf

[6] Available at https://www.unece.org/stats/gender/toolkit.html

[7] Available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECE_CES_37_WEB.pdf

[8] Available at https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47511

development and technical assistance activities undertaken by UNECE help to ensure the production, dissemination and communication, and use of gender-relevant SDG indicators and other gender statistics. UNECE has provided support to countries for the development and use of surveys on violence against women, women's entrepreneurship and time use, among other topics.

20. As a member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), which coordinates the Global Gender Statistics Programme, as well as a member of the Steering Group for UN Women's Flagship Programme Initiative "Making Every Woman and Girl Count", UNECE is well-placed both to understand and to influence the strategies and priorities in gender statistics at the global level.

2. United Nations Statistics Division[9]

21. UNSD implements the Global Gender Statistics Programme, as mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The main aims of UNSD's work in the area of gender statistics are:

(a) To review standards and methods currently used in the compilation of official statistics;

(b) To identify ways to integrate a gender perspective in data collection, presentation and dissemination;

(c) To compile and to disseminate gender statistics, making gender statistics and indicators easily available in formats and media that are not only easily accessible to users, but are also understood;

(d) To provide a variety of technical assistance on gender statistics to NSOs, regional programmes and United Nations agencies. This support covers such activities as organizing training workshops and other meetings at interregional as well as regional and national levels, and providing direct technical assistance to countries, agencies and other institutions.

22. In addition, UNSD launched the Sustainable Development Goal indicators website, a platform for disseminating the database of SDG indicators. This platform provides access to data and metadata from throughout the United Nations system in preparation for the Secretary-General's annual report on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals". It includes information on the work of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. It includes global data and metadata, the official indicator list and the global-level tier classification of indicators.

(a) *Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Project (EDGE)*[10]

23. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Statistics Division and UN Women that seeks to improve the integration of gender issues into the regular production of official statistics to support evidence-based policymaking.

[9] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/gender/default.htm

[10] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/gender/index.cshtml#IAEG-GS

24. EDGE aims to accelerate existing efforts to generate internationally comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership in three key ways:

(a) Developing an online interactive platform to disseminate gender-relevant data and metadata on education, employment, and health in line with the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators;

(b) Developing methodological guidelines on measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2017;

(c) Providing technical support to countries to implement the EDGE methodological guidelines.

25. The EDGE project is guided by a Steering Committee composed of members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS).

(b) The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)[11]

26. UNSD serves as Secretariat to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), the coordinating and guiding body of the Global Gender Statistics Programme. The group comprises representatives of UN entities and other international agencies, statisticians from NSOs, and other partners, to guide and monitor activities aimed at the advancement of gender statistics. It meets annually and works through advisory groups.

27. Another function is to guide the development of manuals and methodological guidelines for gender statistics production and use. Products whose development have been overseen by the IAEG-GS include *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*[12], published in 2014, and the *International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics*[13], published in 2016.

28. The IAEG-GS coordinates the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators[14] that serves as a guide for national production and international compilation of gender statistics. The Minimum Set of Gender Indicators is a collection of 52 quantitative indicators and 11 qualitative indicators addressing relevant issues regarding gender equality and/or women's empowerment in five domains:

(a) Economic structures;

(b) Participation in productive activities and access to resources;

(c) Education, health and related services;

(d) Human rights of women and girls; and

(e) Public life and decision-making.

29. The indicators are classified into three tiers, with the same criteria as those used for the SDG indicators.

30. The indicators of the Minimum Set were selected to monitor gender equality and women's empowerment. They were initially developed with reference to the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals and

[11] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/gender/index.cshtml#IAEG-GS
[12] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/guidelines_statistics_vaw.pdf
[13] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/icatus-2016/
[14] https://genderstats.un.org/#/home

targets; they are now being reviewed by an advisory group to assess their coherence with the SDG gender indicators and determine any need for changes. At the same time, their tier categorization is being reviewed. For example, the indicators related to time use may soon be moved from tier II to tier I.

31. The IAEG-GS maintains a specific website for the Global Gender Statistics Programme[15] that provides a platform for the dissemination of developments in the gender statistics fields and promotes inter-institutional collaboration

3. UN Women[16]

32. UN Women was established in July 2010 to lead and to coordinate United Nations activities on gender equality issues. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct bodies of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW); the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI); and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

33. UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

(a) SDG indicator development

34. UN Women is designated as the responsible agency for monitoring several of the SDG 5 indicators, either solely (indicators 5.c.1 & 5.5.1b) or in collaboration with other agencies (indicators 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.4.1, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.a.1 & 5.a.2).

35. As one of the designated custodian agencies to monitor three tier III SDG indicators, UN Women works with its partners to develop methodological standards for those indicators, which are the following:

(a) Indicator 5.1.1: Whether the existence or not of legal frameworks to promote, to enforce and to monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (with OECD Development Centre and World Bank);

(b) Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments;

(c) Indicator 5.c.1: Proportion of countries with systems to track and to make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (gender budgeting).

36. To develop methodological standards for each of these indicators, UN Women is taking the following steps: (i) commissioning a discussion paper on the concepts being measured; (ii) organizing a global workshop with national and international subject matter experts; (iii) developing guidelines and survey instruments; (iv) piloting data collection instruments; (v) conducting global and regional consultations to seek feedback from countries and ultimately validate the approach and results; and (vi) presenting the results to the IAEG-SDGs for approval and reclassification into tier II.

37. By July 2017, steps (i) to (iv) had already been completed for all three indicators. Between August and October 2017, the consultations (i.e. step v) took place, and in

[15] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/gender/index.cshtml#home

[16] http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/02/assessment-of-opportunities-for-un-women-to-support-the-development-of-gender-statistics-in-eca

November 2017 the results for all three indicators were presented to the IAEG-SDGs (step vi). The IAEG-SDGs decided to reclassify indicators 5.5.1b (proportion of seats occupied by women in local governments) and 5.c.1 to tier II. UN Women is thus working with its partners to provide technical support to countries, including technical notes and training packages to support the production of these indicators.

(b) Flagship Programme Initiative

38. In order to respond to the challenges of effectively monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective, as well as taking advantage of the current momentum and support for the SDGs and gender statistics, UN Women developed the Flagship Programme Initiative, "Making Every Woman and Girl Count[17]", which aims to bring about a radical change in production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. The project began in 2016 and will continue until 2020.

4. International Labour Organization (ILO)

39. With the promotion of decent work opportunities for women and men at the centre of its mission, ILO is guided by its 1999 Policy on Gender Equality and Mainstreaming. An Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016–17[18] seeks to translate the overarching policy into practice.

40. ILO coordinates a portfolio of development cooperation projects that aim to promote gender equality and women's empowerment across the strategic objectives of its Decent Work agenda.

41. The importance of a gender perspective in statistics on work and working conditions was recognized and formalized in a 2003 "Checklist of good practices for mainstreaming gender in labour statistics"[19] adopted by the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The checklist, even 15 years on, remains a succinct and relevant normative instrument to guide the collection and dissemination of gender-relevant statistics.

42. ILO will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019. Its *Women at Work* Centenary Initiative renews the organization's commitment to promote gender equality and to identify measures that will give new impetus to work in this domain.[20] The initiative focuses on discrimination, pay, care work and violence and harassment. Within this initiative there are numerous activities relevant to gender statistics. These include, for example, the *Women at Work: Trends* 2016 publication, in which sex-disaggregated statistics on labour force participation, employment and unemployment, paid and unpaid work, sectoral segregation and gender differences in wages, social protection and status in employment are presented and analyzed.[21]

43. Led by ILO, UN Women and OECD, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) is a multi-stakeholder coalition to contribute to the achievement of SDG target 8.5 focusing on equal pay between women and men for work of equal value. Its objective is to multiply the outreach and impact of partnerships, providing a framework within which existing

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[17] http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/flagship-programmes/making-every-woman-and-girl-count

[18] Available from http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/WCMS_351305/lang--en/index.htm

[19] Available from http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/guidelines-adopted-by-international-conferences-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_087632/lang--en/index.htm

[20] http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/history/centenary/WCMS_480301/lang--en/index.htm

[21] Available from: http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS_457317/lang--en/index.htm

initiatives and organizations can connect and reinforce each other.[22] Among the target indicators of success for the coalition is a reduction in gender pay gaps, for which sex-disaggregated data are essential.

44. It is important to highlight the relevance of the *Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization* issued at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013[23], which extended the concept of work to include domestic and unpaid care work and to address the concept of total work. This Resolution is already providing a strong basis for the promotion of statistics that make unpaid household work visible.

5. Eurostat[24]

45. In an infographic produced by Eurostat in 2017, *Women in the EU*[25], some of the headline gender statistics compiled by Eurostat from Member States can be seen. The gender equality dataset published by Eurostat is one of two main strands of equality data (the other strand being those relating to ageing). The datasets: a) show how women and men are located in areas such as education, the labour market, earnings and social inclusion, childcare, health and information society; b) present a selection of Eurostat's sex-disaggregated data and link to further statistics, and c) were chosen based on European Union policy documents such as the strategy for equality between women and men (2010–2015), the women's charter (2010) and the roadmap for equality between women and men (2006–2010).

46. Eurostat's 2017 e-publication, *The life of women and men in Europe: a statistical portrait*[26], developed by Eurostat in collaboration with NSOs, uses interactive tools and visualizations to highlight the similarities and differences in the lived experiences of women and men across the region. It serves as an example of effective communication techniques to bring relevant and understandable gender statistics to everyday users among the general public.

47. The publication *Sustainable Development in the European Union: Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context*[27] is the first edition of regular monitoring exercises towards the sustainable development goals. Within this publication, monitoring of SDG 5 focuses on the sub-themes of gender violence, education, employment and leadership positions.

48. The ongoing work of the Eurostat Task Forces on Innovative Tools and Sources for Household Budget Surveys and for Time-Use Surveys are responding to calls for better coverage and comparability, identifying ways to foster more efficient data collection and to make use of evolving technologies so that the burden on both respondents and statistical offices may be reduced. The outcomes of these Task Forces should lead to improvements in data availability for gender statistics.

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[22] http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/equality-and-discrimination/epic/lang--es/index.htm

[23] http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/resolutions-adopted-by-international-conferences-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_230304/lang--en/index.htm

[24] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Gender_statistics

[25] Available from: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/e/e4/Women_in_the_EU_2017.jpg

[26] Available from: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/womenmen/

[27] Available from: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-books/-/KS-04-17-780

6. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

49. OECD's Gender Initiative[28] examines barriers to gender equality in education, employment, and entrepreneurship. It monitors the progress made by governments to promote gender equality and provides good practices based on analytical tools and data.

50. The 2015 OECD Recommendation of the Council on Gender Equality in Public Life[29] calls for systematic strengthening of the evidence base on gender equality through improved data collection, dissemination and coordination.

51. The OECD Gender Data Portal[30] includes selected indicators on gender inequalities in education, employment, entrepreneurship, governance, health and development. The data cover OECD member countries and partner economies including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.

52. In its 2017 report *The pursuit of gender equality: An uphill battle*[31], OECD presents statistical indicators that illustrate gender gaps regarding education, employment, entrepreneurship, migration, public life, unpaid work and violence against women, and highlights the recent initiatives of "best practice" policies, such as salary transparency measures to reduce gender wage gaps and incentives for fathers to take parental leave.

53. OECD works with UN Women and the World Bank to monitor SDG indicator 5.1.1 (elimination of all forms of discrimination) and conducts research to harmonize data on violence against women for member countries.

54. The OECD Development Centre produces the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The SIGI covers five dimensions of discriminatory social institutions, spanning major socio-economic areas that affect women's lives:

(a) Discriminatory family code;

(b) Restricted physical integrity;

(c) Son bias;

(d) Restricted resources and assets; and

(e) Restricted civil liberties.

55. Through its 160 country profiles, country classifications and unique database, the SIGI provides a strong evidence base to more effectively address the discriminatory social institutions that hold back progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.

7. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

56. Gender equality and women's empowerment are central to FAO's work on eradicating hunger and poverty. FAO is the custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators, across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and a contributing agency for six more. Specifically in relation to goal 5, it is the custodian for indicators 5.a.1 (a) (percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex); 5.a.1 (b) (share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure); and 5.a.2 (percentage of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control).[32]

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[28] http://www.oecd.org/gender/resources/

[29] Available from http://www.oecd.org/gov/2015-oecd-recommendation-of-the-council-on-gender-equality-in-public-life-9789264252820-en.htm

[30] http://www.oecd.org/gender/data/

[31] Available from: http://www.oecd.org/gender/the-pursuit-of-gender-equality-9789264281318-en.htm

[32] www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/en/

57. The methodology for indicator 5.a.1 is based on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective, developed as part of the EDGE project. FAO is working alongside partner agencies, in particular the custodian agencies for SDG indicator 1.4.2 concerned with secure land tenure rights, to ensure harmonization of the methodology of these two indicators and to develop a survey module that would permit collection of data for both indicators, which could be incorporated into internationally-sponsored surveys.

58. FAO's regional office for Europe and Central Asia has developed an *Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit*[33], launched in 2016, which supports the production and use of sex-disaggregated agricultural data. As part of this effort it has implemented its *Gender and Agricultural Statistics Framework* in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. The Toolkit includes a unified methodology to guide the collection and analysis of gender-sensitive agricultural data, called the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis Approach. A Core Set of Gender Indicators in Agriculture forms an important part of the Toolkit.

59. FAO provides technical assistance to countries to collect and use gender-sensitive agricultural statistics: for example, it has supported the agricultural census in Tajikistan and Georgia, and has aided Kazakhstan in the analysis of time use surveys.

8. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)[34]

60. For more than 30 years, UNFPA has advocated for women and girls, promoting legal and policy reforms and gender-sensitive data collection, and supporting initiatives that improve women's health and expand their choices in life. It is one of the main UN agencies that works to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

61. UNFPA works with governments, partners and other UN agencies to directly tackle many of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 3 on health, goal 4 on education and goal 5 on gender equality. It supports policies and programmes that promote gender equality at all levels; collaborates with partners around the world to eliminate child marriage; and works closely with partners, including men and boys, to fight gender-based violence. [35]

62. UNFPA is a custodian or partner agency for the SDG indicators on violence against women and girls, early and child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, informed decision-making on sexual and reproductive health and care, and laws and regulations for access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education. For the latter two of these, in particular (SDG indicators 5.6.1 and 5.6.2), UNFPA is leading the development of methodology and standards and piloting data collection to produce the indicators.

63. In the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, UNFPA's work on gender statistics has included: supporting the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat) to publish information on Women and Men in Turkey and CIS countries on the basis of national data; supporting UNECE initiatives on gender statistics; contributing to the development of guidelines; supporting countries in fielding the Generations and Gender Survey.

9. European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)[36]

64. EIGE is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all EU

[33] Available from: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5769e.pdf
[34] http://www.unfpa.org/gender-equality
[35] http://www.unfpa.org/sdg
[36] http://eige.europa.eu/

policies and the resulting national policies, and to combat discrimination based on sex, as well as to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.

65. One of its strategic objectives is to provide high quality research and data to support better-informed and evidence-based decision-making by policymakers and other key stakeholders working to achieve gender equality.

66. EIGE plays a key role in supporting the development of gender statistic in the region. It focuses on the collection, harmonization, analysis and use of gender statistics through the European Gender Equality Index (a composite indicator that measures gender gaps between women and men) and the European Gender Statistics Database (a useful tool that can be used to find reliable, comparable and up-to-date information on equality between women and men).

67. It created EuroGender[37], an information exchange platform for online cooperation and consultation that facilitates virtual teams to work, share knowledge and contribute to advancing gender equality. The platform also promotes events related to gender and interaction with experts and organizations, among others.

68. EIGE develops guidelines on data quality in gender statistics production. It has developed its own approach to Good Practices, including a set of basic criteria for the identification of practices with potential, and is applying the same methodology for the identification and dissemination of good practices in all selected areas. The aim of the project is to build capacity of Member States for effective implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies and gender equality policies.[38]

69. EIGE works for a Europe free of gender violence and provides access to data and information on existing gender violence statistics, with the aim of supporting institutions and experts committed to prevention and to fighting against gender violence in the European Union and beyond.

10. World Bank

70. The World Bank is a long-standing participant in the area of gender statistics. It has in the past partnered with UNECE in a project for mainstreaming gender into national statistical systems, involving the development of training videos, delivery of training workshops, and the development of the 2010 manual, *Developing Gender Statistics: a Practical Tool*.

71. The Bank Group launched a new Gender Equality Strategy in 2016, which placed a greater emphasis on increased quantity and quality of gender data. In this context, several of its initiatives support efforts to fill gender data gaps.

72. The World Bank works in collaboration with UN Women and UNSD in the EDGE project, focusing on data approaches to track gender gaps in asset ownership and assisting countries to apply the EDGE methodology in new surveys.

73. The World Bank is working with UN Women to explore the possibility of jointly monitoring indicator 5.1.1 of the SDGs (whether or not there are legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex).

74. In 2016, it launched a project on Women, Business and the Law, a project that collects data on laws and regulations that constrain entrepreneurship, women's employment and economic participation.

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[37] http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/

[38] http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs

75. The World Bank is an important producer and disseminator of data. It developed a project to support Armenia in the implementation of the Living Standards Measurement Study in 2017, and another to support the first EU-SILC survey in Kosovo. It also developed a project to promote evidence-based policy formulation in Kosovo in key areas such as informal employment, poverty, social inclusion, health, social protection and dialogue between users and producers in these areas.

76. The Global Findex database, the world's most comprehensive database on financial inclusion, provides in-depth data on how individuals save, borrow, make payments, and manage risks. The World Bank collaborates with the Global Banking Alliance and UN Women to develop mechanisms for central banks to report data on financial assets disaggregated by sex.

77. The Gender Data Portal allows users to access gender data time series, search for indicators, create queries or download all gender indicators; explore country and thematic dashboards on gender equality indicators; obtain tools for data visualization and analysis; search for household surveys and censuses with topics of interest in the survey catalogue; learn about availability of gender data and efforts of the World Bank Group to fill data gaps; explore guidelines, manuals and training materials; download gender statistics publications; and view data and resources of the World Bank and other agencies.[39]

11. International Monetary Fund (IMF)[40]

78. The IMF recognizes women's empowerment as essential for economic growth and prosperity, and as such it is committed to promoting gender equality. Analysis and policy advice and programming – on such diverse topics as female labour force participation, financial inclusion, gender budgeting, the economic impacts of discriminatory laws, and bank stability associated with gender balanced leadership – depend upon gender statistics. A 2015 pilot survey on access to finance, for example, highlighted the necessity of sex-disaggregation to permit gender-sensitive analysis.[41]

79. The IMF DataMapper tool[42] uses two gender equality datasets, on gender budgeting and on Gender Equality Indices. These allow users to map national gender budgeting initiatives and multidimensional composite indices of gender equality.

12. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)[43]

80. UNICEF's mission is to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of girls and women and to support their full participation in the social, political and economic development of their communities.

81. UNICEF recognizes the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination as central to the consideration of gender equality and believes that gender-based discrimination is one of the most ubiquitous forms of discrimination that children face. The organization promotes equal outcomes for girls and boys, and its policies, programmes, partnerships and advocacy efforts seek to contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through result-oriented, effective, innovative and well-coordinated action that achieves the protection, survival and

[39] https://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/gender-statistics

[40] http://www.imf.org/external/themes/gender/

[41] See 'Gender Note' on http://data.imf.org/?sk=E5DCAB7E-A5CA-4892-A6EA-598B5463A34C&sId=1460040555909

[42] Available from: http://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/datasets/GD

[43] https://www.unicef.org/gender/gender_57317.html

development of girls and boys on an equal basis. The organization seeks to engage boys and men in transforming gender relations towards more gender-equal societies. UNICEF strives to mainstream gender equality in all of its work, with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as a principal reference, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as the other important underpinning of the organization's mandate and mission.

82. UNICEF's activities in the area of gender statistics include supporting the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey programme (MICS), an international Household Survey Programme, to produce, analyze and disseminate data for monitoring the well-being of children, women and households, focusing on topics including health, education, child protection, water and sanitation, rights and protection.

83. UNICEF's commitment to gender statistics is evidenced by their 2016 publication, *Harnessing the Power of Data for Girls: Taking stock and looking ahead to 2030*[44], which explains the importance of gender statistics with specific reference to achieving the SDGs; gives an overview of data availability; and highlights particular gaps in data quality and collection methods; measurement standards and concepts. It highlights in particular the need for methodological work on child labour, menstrual hygiene management and mental health.

84. UNICEF is a sole or joint custodian agency for the SDG indicators on violence against women and girls; child marriage; female genital mutilation/cutting. It is also involved in technical leadership and/or capacity development work related to the indicators on under-five mortality by sex; education facilities and menstrual hygiene management; and the gender burden of water collection.

85. UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office also hosts the TransMonEE (Transition Monitoring in Eastern Europe) database[45], which collates and disseminates data from NSOs, some of which is sex-disaggregated and/or gender-relevant.

13. World Health Organization (WHO)[46]

86. WHO considers gender as an issue cutting across all of its programmes and activities. Its gender policy commits to promoting gender equity in health, and its *Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO*[47] defines strategic actions to achieve this, one of which is "promoting the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis".

87. WHO is a custodian or partner agency for the SDG indicators relating to violence against women, early and child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting. An inter-agency group is examining a range of issues relating to the measurement of intimate partner violence including data availability and quality, defining and measuring psychological violence, and measuring violence among older women.

88. In the WHO Europe region, recent activities related to gender statistics have been: developing a set of key indicators to monitor the Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health; supporting development of a set of global key indicators on gender and health; preparing a report on women's health and well-being, which provided evidence for the Strategy on women's health and well-being in the WHO European Region adopted by the Regional Committee; developing a monitoring framework for the strategy on women's

[44] Available from: https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/Harnessing-the-Power-of-Data-for-Girls-Brochure-2016-1-1.pdf

[45] http://transmonee.org/

[46] http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs403/en/

[47] Available from: http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/9789241597708/en/

health and well-being in the following settings: SDGs, Health 2020 and the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

14. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

89. UNDP is the lead United Nations agency in the field of development. The promotion of gender equality and the women's empowerment are core aspects of the UNDP mandate and are integrated into its development approach. This effort includes the promotion of equal rights for women and girls, fighting against discriminatory practices and challenging roles and stereotypes that serve as a foundation for inequalities and exclusion.[48] UNDP works in collaboration with partners within and beyond the United Nations system to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, with special attention to women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination: ethnicity, disability, migratory or indigenous status.

90. UNDP participates actively in processes of international cooperation to improve the quality of data used for the creation of statistics on development, including gender statistics, since it relies on high-quality data for the computation of its flagship Human Development Index and the Gender Inequality Index.[49]

15. UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

91. UIS is the leading source for, and the official custodian agency of, SDG indicators relating to education and literacy. UIS' sex-disaggregated and gender-relevant statistics help countries to assess and address gender gaps in education. UIS produces parity indices and develops new indicators to better reflect the equity and inclusion of girls and boys. UIS data show the educational pathways of girls and boys from pre-primary to tertiary education, with indicators on entry, participation, progression, completion and attainment in education, for example.

92. The UNESCO eAtlas for Education 2030[50] and the eAtlas of Gender Inequality in Education are part of a series of interactive tools[51] providing a wide range of sex-disaggregated data and visualizations including maps, charts and detailed background information.

D. Issues and challenges

93. The topics requiring the most immediate attention in order to improve the availability of data for the goal 5 indicators are:

(a) Time-use and unpaid work;

(b) Violence against women.

94. Topics, which also merit further consideration in order to deepen the degree of gender mainstreaming throughout statistics include:

(a) Economic statistics with a gender perspective;

(b) Decision-making in the home.

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[48] http://www.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/ourwork/gender-equality/overview.html

[49] http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii

[50] Available from https://www.tellmaps.com/sdg4/#!/topic/TARGETS

[51] Available from https://tellmaps.com/uis/gender/#!/topic/GENDER

95. It is necessary to evaluate the relevance of the proposed disaggregations for the SDG indicators, since the current availability of information, in general, seldom goes beyond the total national data.

E. Conclusions

96. The gender statistics activities carried out by the many institutions, organizations and projects outlined above focus on the following:

(a) Developing guidelines, standards and methodologies for the preparation and monitoring of statistics relevant to gender. This is done with the interlinked aims of increasing the generation of statistical information with a gender perspective in different areas; improving the quality of the data generated; and enhancing international comparability;

(b) Providing technical assistance for the production, availability, accessibility, analysis and use of gender statistics;

(c) Making use of electronic means for dissemination, availability, access, use and above all understanding of gender statistics by different users;

(d) Promoting inter-institutional collaboration on gender statistics at various levels;

(e) Communication about gender equality and the importance of a gender perspective at the institutional level, as well as for populations in general;

(f) Monitoring and collaborating on policies, initiatives and decision-making with a gender perspective.

F. Recommendations

97. While the foregoing sections show that progress has been made, and that the Sustainable Development Agenda has given a much-needed impetus to the continued development and promotion of gender statistics, gaps and areas for further development still remain. In light of the activities described above, it is considered that future activities should be framed as follows and undertaken by the international gender statistics community:

(a) Continue the ongoing methodological work on the measurement of power and decision-making within households;

(b) Review the gender-relevant SDG indicators currently classified at the global level as tier III, with the purpose of developing methodologies that would permit their reclassification to tiers II or I;

(c) Obtain more detailed information on countries' capacities in the production and availability of SDG 5 indicators and other gender-relevant SDG indicators;

(d) Establish measures to strengthen the gender perspective in information systems and in the statistical capabilities of NSOs, including the incorporation of a gender perspective into their dissemination and communication activities in general;

(e) Relatedly, support improvements in the dissemination and communication of gender statistics more specifically, in order to make data accessible to users across all user groups, including policymakers and the general public, empowering them to use and interpret what they find;

(f) Reinforce efforts to develop new topics for statistics with a gender perspective, including those which go beyond the scope of the SDGs. It is important, for example, to consider addressing other issues such as gender identity, and to explore gender-related attitudes and their impact, since they represent subtle but pervasive aspects of gender inequality;

(g) Promote use of administrative records for the production of gender statistics.

III. Discussion and decisions by the CES Bureau

A. In-depth review discussion

98. The following is an extract from the report of the CES Bureau meeting on 10–11 October 2017 (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/23):

(a) "Gender statistics remains of high interest to countries. It is a challenging area that creates a need for strong partnerships due to its cross-cutting nature and diversity of topics covered;

(b) The changing and often politically sensitive landscape of gender and gender identity in public discourse can lead to competing pressures: on one hand to produce more sex-disaggregated data, and on the other hand to avoid questions on sex and gender altogether;

(c) There was strong support for the main thematic priorities identified in the in-depth review paper, namely time-use surveys, unpaid work, and violence against women;

(d) The list of non-thematic priorities should include the use of new data sources and new technologies, especially in time-use surveys and household budget surveys.

(e) Efforts should focus on highlighting the merits of time-use surveys, the value of standardizing and harmonizing these surveys across countries, and the potential of modern tools and techniques for reducing the burden and cost. It would be useful to explore the reasons for resistance to conducting time-use surveys as part of NSOs' standard portfolios, and how such resistance could be reduced;

(f) Future work must build on what has already been done on time-use surveys in UNECE and other organizations. The work should align with and not duplicate current work in UNSD, UN Women, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics;

(g) OECD, Eurostat and IMF will provide further information for the section of the review dealing with activities of international organizations in gender statistics."

99. It was decided that Mexico, with the help of UNECE, would incorporate additional inputs from international organizations into the paper; and that the paper should be shared with the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics and the participants of the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in November, to propose areas for focus within the agreed-upon priority areas.

B. Outcomes and follow-up work

100. The discussions by the CES Bureau, the Steering Group on Gender Statistics, and the participants in the 2017 Work Session on Gender Statistics[52] led to the following conclusions:

(a) The impetus and attention provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is valuable, but care must be taken that this attention does not narrow the focus of gender statistics to only those indicators included in the SDG indicator framework;

(b) Much of the methodological and conceptual development work for those indicators falling within the scope of SDG 5 is well taken-care of under the stewardship of custodian agencies and other organizations. The methodological development of time-use surveys is being advanced by both Eurostat and UNSD;

(c) The most notable outstanding area requiring further development and attention from the international community is communication and, relatedly, use and interpretation of gender statistics. The Work Session on Gender Statistics highlighted the potential for a positively reinforcing relationship between demonstrable use of gender statistics for developing or evaluating policies, and support for enhancing data collection and statistical production. That is, NSOs are more likely to undertake the challenging and expensive surveys necessary for producing rich gender statistics if they can see evidence of their value to users. In turn, to improve the value to users, statistical findings must be visible, comprehensible and usable;

(d) There are considerable challenges for statistics posed by diverse, dynamic and often emotive political and public debates on gender issues, including gender identity.

101. In view of these conclusions, the following areas for further work were agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its February 2018 meeting:

(a) Establishment of a new Task Force on Communication of Gender Statistics, overseen by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics;

(b) An in-depth review on measuring gender identity, to be co-led by Canada and the United Kingdom, to report to the Bureau in February 2019.

[52] Report of the Work Session: ECE/CES/GE.30/2017/2

Annex

Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators for Goal 5 (as of December 2017)[a]

Target	*Indicator*	*Initial Proposed Tier (by Secretariat)*	*Possible Custodian Agency(ies)*	*Partner Agency(ies)*	*Updated Tier Classification (by IAEG-SDG Members)*	*Notes (including timing of review and explanation for change in Tier)*
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	Tier III	UN Women, World Bank, OECD Development Centre	OHCHR	Tier III	
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Tier II	UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC	UNSD, UNDP	Tier II	
	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Tier II	UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC	UNSD, UNDP	Tier II	
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Tier I	UNICEF	WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, DESA Population Division	Tier II	IAEG-SDG 3rd meeting: Lack of sufficient data coverage (classified as Tier II)
	5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	Tier I	UNICEF	UNFPA, WHO	Tier II	IAEG-SDG 3rd meeting: Lack of sufficient data coverage (classified as Tier II)

[a] Source: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Tier%20Classification%20of%20SDG%20Indicators_15%20Dec%202017_web%20final.xlsx

Target	Indicator	Initial Proposed Tier (by Secretariat)	Possible Custodian Agency(ies)	Partner Agency(ies)	Updated Tier Classification (by IAEG-SDG Members)	Notes (including timing of review and explanation for change in Tier)
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Tier II	UNSD, UN Women		Tier II	
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	Tier I/III	IPU, UN Women	World Bank	Tier I (a)/ Tier II (b)	Reviewed at 6th IAEG-SDG meeting (part (b) classified as Tier II)
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Tier I	ILO		Tier I	
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Tier III	UNFPA	UN Women	Tier II	IAEG-SDG 3rd meeting: There is an established methodology for the indicator (classified as Tier II)
	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	Tier III	UNFPA	UN Women, DESA Population Division, WHO	Tier III	UNSC 48 Refinement, Reviewed at 5th IAEG-SDG meeting: Internationally agreed methodology and standard to be developed (indicator in piloting stage of methodology development) (classified as Tier III)

Target	Indicator	Initial Proposed Tier (by Secretariat)	Possible Custodian Agency(ies)	Partner Agency(ies)	Updated Tier Classification (by IAEG-SDG Members)	Notes (including timing of review and explanation for change in Tier)
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	Tier III	FAO	UN Women, UNSD, UNEP, World Bank, UN-Habitat	Tier II	Fast Track: Reviewed at 5th IAEG-SDG meeting (classified as Tier II)
	5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	Tier III	FAO	World Bank, UN Women	Tier II	Reviewed at 6th IAEG-SDG meeting (classified as Tier II)
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Tier II	ITU		Tier I	IAEG-SDG 3rd meeting: There is broad, global data coverage for this indicator (classified as Tier I)
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	Tier III	UN Women, OECD		Tier II	Reviewed at 6th IAEG-SDG meeting (classified as Tier II)